

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend the third and fourth paragraphs on page 2 of the specification as follows:

- - According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a mattress protector to shield a mattress or mattress core (as used hereinafter in the specification and claims the term mattress encompasses both the terms mattress and mattress core) from body fluids, the protector comprising a shielding cover for the mattress or mattress core, the shielding cover having a layer that is impermeable to body fluids, and a detector within the cover or below or in an under layer of the cover, the detector being below the impermeable layer of the shielding cover, to detect body fluid that has passed into or through the cover, the fluid having penetrated the impermeable layer of the shielding cover. The protector may be separate from or integral with a mattress and, in the latter case, may comprise all or part of the casing that envelopes the mattress core. The substantially liquid-impermeable cover is preferably breathable.

In a first preferred embodiment of the invention the cover is a transparent cover for a mattress with an inter-layer or under-layer (as used hereinafter in the specification and claims the term layer encompasses both the terms inter-layer and under-layer),

suitably an absorbent under-layer, having a dye that is activated by a body fluid to provide a visual indication of presence of the body fluid. The inter- or under-layer is preferably impregnated with the dye. - -

Please amend the third paragraph on page 3 of the specification as follows:

- - In a second preferred embodiment of the invention, instead of having a dye-based detector the detector comprises an apparatus that monitors electrical conductivity. This suitably uses electrically conductive threads or ~~fibres~~ fibers (as used hereinafter in the specification and claims the term threads encompasses both the terms threads and fibers) such as, for example, an electrically conductive yarn (eg, silver plated nylon), forming rows or a matrix over the inter- or under-layer. Suitably the threads form the warp or weft of a thin flexible woven under- layer. - -